Serial No. 10/751,022   Filed: January 2, 2004
Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Filed: February 13, 2009

REMARKS

Claims 36, 38-48, 50-56, 59, 61-63, 65, 69-71, 73-76 and 78-86 are pending in the present application. Claims 36, 39, 40-48, 51-56, 59, 61-63, 65, 71, 73, and 78 have been amended to further describe that which was previously claimed, to maintain antecedent basis and/or to correct scrivener's errors. In addition, Claim 77 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter described therein, and Claims 80-86 were added. Support for the amendments can be found in at least paragraphs [065] – [077] and [0125] - [0148]. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following discussion.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner, Aung T. Win, for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, Sanders N. Hillis (reg. no. 45,712), during the telephonic interview of February 4, 2009 in which Claims 1, 22, 30, 33, 41 and 48 were discussed. US Patent No. 6,449,344 to Goldfinger et al., US Patent Publication No. 2002/0004736 to Roundtree et al., US Patent No. 6,754,665 to Futagami et al. and US Patent Publication No. 2004/0059790 to Austin-Lane et al. were also discussed. No agreement was reached.

Claim rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph

Claims 36, 48, 52, 53 and 59 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph under the assertion that specific limitations in the claims were not supported by the specification.

With regard Claim 36, the limitations of "determining a contact preference for how to contact the subscriber terminal about the received contact information request with the information assistance application only when the information request is determined as not being automatically denied" was asserted as unsupported in the specification.

As described in at least paragraph [0132] and Figure 10 of the specification, the information assistance application (800) includes a permission module (1000) and a subscriber preference module (1014). Paragraph [0140] of the specification describes that "[t]he permission module 1000 may determine that the Subscriber has set his/her permissions such that none of his/her customer proprietary information may be disclosed. The preferences may deny the Requestor specifically by name, by telephone number, or the preferences may deny the Requestor categorically using some other criteria such as the Requestor's employer, or other demographic information." In addition, paragraph [0141] of the specification describes that "[t]he permission module 1000 may also use the subscriber preference module 1014 to determine a preferred method for contacting the Subscriber based on preferences set by the Subscriber upon initiation of the permission service." To satisfy the written description requirement, a patent

specification must describe the claimed invention in sufficient detail that one skilled in the art can reasonably conclude that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention. (MPEP 2163(1)   Clearly, at least Figure 10 and the accompanying description describe and fully support the limitations of determining a contact preference for how to contact the subscriber terminal about the received contact information request with the information assistance application only when the information request is determined as not being automatically denied as recited in Claim 36.

   With regard to Claim 48, in at least paragraph [0133] of the specification describes that "the present invention provides a method and system that enables a Requestor to place a phone call (or make some other type of request in a different format) to the information assistance application 800 and request a phone number (or other contact information) of another Subscriber who's terminal is also connected to a wireless communication system."   In addition, at least paragraph [014] describes that "the Subscriber may also be provided with an option that allows them to determine the type of contact information or data that will be given to the Requestor," and at least paragraph [015] describes that "the permission module may interpret the reply from the Subscriber to determine the type of data to be given to the Requestor as the message to the Subscriber may contain an option that allows the Subscriber to indicate what information may be given to the Requestor." Further, at least paragraph [0131] and Figure 9 describes "[a]t step 918, the information assistance application 800 generates a response to the request that

contains contact information that is releasable per the Subscriber. The Subscriber

may have a profile that indicates the type of information that may be released. For

example, the Subscriber may only want their mobile telephone number and/or email

address released and not their home telephone number." Thus, Claim 48 is fully

supported by the specification.

> With regard to Claim 52, at least paragraph [0135] describes that:

> [T]he Requestor may speak to a computer system enabled with computer telephony integration to answer the telephone call and the voice recognition module 1002 to interpret the spoken request. In any embodiment of the invention that incorporates a spoken request interpreted by a computer application, the information assistance application 800 may include an integrated voice recognition module 1002 and a natural language processing module 1004 that interpret the spoken request. The natural language processing module 1004 allows the Requestor to use normal speech when making the request instead of replying to prompts. As such, the natural language processing module 1004 is designed to interpret natural spoken requests.

> In addition, at least paragraph [0133] describes:

> The request may include one of the following, or some combination of the following information about the Subscriber: first name, last name, address, employer, home phone number, office phone number, Subscriber's wireless service provider, previous wireless phone number and/or wireless provider, other personal proprietary information and so forth. For example, the request message may comprise a message received in one of the following formats: "I need the wireless number for Mike Jones who has a XYZ Company wireless phone" or "I need the wireless number for Mike Jones who's home telephone number is 999-232-2231".

Thus, Claim 52 is fully supported by the specification.

With regard to Claim 53, in addition to at least paragraphs [0133] and [0135], at least paragraphs [038] through [043] and Figure 1 also discuss voice recognition and natural language processing.

With regard to Claim 59, at least paragraph [010] describes that "the Requestor may also have access to a browser-based application that allows the Requestor to gain access to the information assistance application through a web-enabled environment. For example, the Requestor may go to a website that hosts the information assistance application and make a request by entering information into input fields generated by the information assistance application on a web page." In addition, at least paragraph [0137] describes that:

> [A]s the request is sent from the requestor terminal 802, some unique information about the requestor terminal 802 such as the serial number, requestor name, telephone number, or other such identifying information is sent with the request to aid in determining the identity of the Requestor. The requestor identification module 1010 of the information assistance application 800 may be used to determine the identification of the Requestor. In the case that the message is in the form of a spoken request, the information assistance application 800 may use a voice printing module 1016 to validate that the user of the requestor terminal 802 is the individual assigned to the requestor terminal 802 per the customer agreement with the wireless access network service provider 808, thus ensuring that when the request is delivered to the Subscriber, the Requestor's identity can be accurately represented. In addition, the voice printing module 1016 may be used to identify the Requestor.

Further, at least paragraph [0140] describes that "[t]he information assistance application 800 preferably uses the methods described in the section entitled Virtual Customer Database [VCDB] above to retrieve Requestor proprietary information or some representation of this data," at least paragraph

[073] describes that "[t]he consumer internal profile database 122 may include information related to each consumer enabled to utilize the VCDB system 100," and at least paragraph [087] describes that "[e]ach entry in the listing of subscribing consumers may include a virtual key associated with the name(s) and current/past addresses of the individual. Alternatively, the virtual key may be associated with any other information indicative of the identity of a consumer that may be compared and selectively matched to the extracted information. The virtual key may be a unique hash code or other similar unique identifier that is a universal but anonymous identifier uniquely representing each consumer utilizing the personalized services of the VCDB system 100." Thus, Claim 59 is fully supported by the specification.

Claim rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Claims 36, 38-48, 50-56, 59, 61-63, 65, 69-71, 73-76 and 78-83

Claims 36, 38-40, 43-48, 51, 54, 56, 59, 61-63, 65, 69-71, 72-75 and 78-79 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020004736A1 to Roundtree et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Roundtree") as modified by four references, namely, U.S. Patent No. 6,449,344 to Goldfinger et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Goldfinger"), U.S. Patent No. 6,754,665 to Futagami et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Futagami"), U.S. Patent No. 6,546,005 to Berkley et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Berkley") and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0059790 to Austin-Lane et al (hereinafter referred to as "Austin-Lane"). Also, Claims 42 and 53 was rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

obvious in view of Roundtree, as modified by five references, namely, Goldfinger,

Futagami, Berkley, Austin-Lane and U.S. Patent No. 6,345,245 to Sugiyama et al.

(hereinafter referred to as "Sugiyama"). Further, Claims 50 and 72 were rejected

pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Roundtree as modified by

five references, namely, Goldfinger, Futagami, Berkley, Austin-Lane and U.S.

Patent Publication No. 20050020250A1 to Chadda et al. (hereinafter referred to as

"Chadda"). Finally, Claims 41, 52, 55, and 76 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §

103(a) as being obvious in view of Roundtree, as modified by five references,

namely, Goldfinger, Futagami, Berkley, Austin-Lane and U.S. Patent Publication

No. 20040054935 to Holvey et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Holvey"). Applicant

respectfully traverses these rejections not only due to the hind sight reconstruction,

which is clearly taking place, but also since the presently cited combinations of

references fail to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the presently

pending claims. Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained.

For example, Claim 36 describes querying a participating communication

provider database of a communication provider providing communication services to

the wireless terminal to identify a virtual key of the requestor from unique

information of the wireless terminal included with the contact information request,

the virtual key being a universal anonymous identifier of the requestor that is

shared among a plurality of different participating businesses. None of the cited

references teach or suggest a virtual key as described in Claim 36.

In another example, Claim 48 describes a code segment to access, using the virtual key of the requestor, a consumer internal profile database containing verification data of the requestor and proprietary information of the requestor, and a code segment to verify, with the verification data, consent of the requestor to release and use of the proprietary information of the requestor. None of the cited references, either alone or in combination teach or suggest access to a consumer internal profile database using a virtual key. In addition, none of the cited references teach or suggest verification with verification data the consent of the requestor to release and use proprietary information of the requestor as described in Claim 48.

In yet another example, Claim 59 describes a virtual customer database system in communication with the information assistance application server, the virtual customer database comprising a communication provider database of a communication provider providing communication services to the wireless terminal and a consumer internal profile database comprising verification data of the requestor and proprietary information of the requestor. None of the cited references teach or suggest a virtual customer database as described in Claim 59. Thus, it follows that none of the cited references either alone or in combination can possibly teach or suggest a communication provider database and a consumer internal profile database as also described in Claim 59.

In still another example, the method of Claim 78 describes querying a first participating communication provider database of a first communication provider

providing communication services to the wireless terminal to identify a first virtual key of the user of the wireless terminal based on unique information of the wireless terminal included with the contact information request, the first virtual key being a universal anonymous identifier of the user of the wireless terminal that is shared among a plurality of different participating businesses, and querying a consumer cross reference database to identify a second virtual key of the consumer subscriber identified in the contact information request. None of the cited reference either alone or in combination teach or suggest querying to identify a first virtual key of a user of a wireless terminal and querying to identify a second virtual key of a consumer subscriber as described in Claim 78.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the cited references either alone or in combination fail to teach, suggest, disclose, or render obvious, each and every limitation of presently pending independent Claims 36, 48, 59, or 78, or the claims respectively dependent therefrom. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of the presently pending claims. Also, Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited references fail to teach or suggest the limitations described in new claims 80-86.
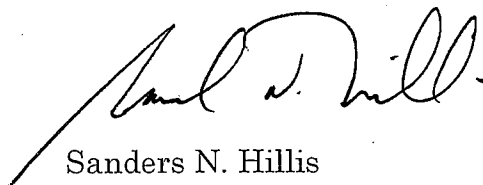
With this amendment and response, the currently pending claims are patentable over the cited references. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance for this application. Should the Examiner deem a telephone conference to be beneficial in expediting allowance/examination of this

application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the

telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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